

**In the Claims:**

Claims 1, 5, 12, 15, 28, 30, 31, & 34 are amended herein. Claims 17 through 25, 27, 33, 35 and 37-46 were previously withdrawn. Claims 2, 9, 10, & 11 are canceled. All pending claims and their present status are produced below.

1 1. (Currently Amended) A composition of endothelial cells comprising:  
2 immortal human microvascular endothelial cells, said cells each comprising a recombinant  
3 expression cassette encoding human telomerase, wherein said cells (a) have a normal  
4 karyotype, (b) are resistant to apoptosis relative to primary microvascular endothelial  
5 cells, and (c) are not transformed.

1 2. (Canceled)

1 3. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein said human telomerase is  
2 a human telomerase reverse transcriptase catalytic subunit.

1 4. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein said cells express one or more  
2 phenotypic traits expressed uniquely by young primary microvascular endothelial cells.

1 5. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 4, wherein said phenotypic trait is  
2 selected from the group consisting of surface receptors[,] and endothelial cell specific  
3 signaling transduction pathways, [and]or both.

1 6. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein said cells stably express a  
2 [transformed] genetic marker.

1 7. (Original) The composition of claim 6, wherein said [transformed] genetic marker is  
2 enhanced green fluorescent protein (eGFP).

1 8. (Original) The composition of claim 7, wherein said cells form human microvascular  
2 structures *in vitro*.

1 9. (Canceled)

- 1 10. (Canceled)
- 1 11. (Canceled)
- 1 12. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim [11]8, wherein growth of the human  
2 microvascular structures is modulated by a pharmaceutically acceptable[said] compound that  
3 promotes angiogenesis.
- 1 13. (Original) The composition of claim 12, wherein said compound is VEGF.
- 1 14. (Original) The composition of claim 12, wherein said compound is FGF-2.
- 1 15. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim [11]8, wherein growth of the human  
2 microvascular structures is modulated by a pharmaceutically acceptable[said] compound that  
3 is an anti-angiogenic compound.
- 1 16. (Original) The composition of claim 15, wherein said anti-angiogenic compound is  
2 endostatin.
- 1 17. (Withdrawn)
- 1 18. (Withdrawn)
- 1 19. (Withdrawn)
- 1 20. (Withdrawn)
- 1 21. (Withdrawn)
- 1 22. (Withdrawn)
- 1 23. (Withdrawn)
- 1 24. (Withdrawn)
- 1 25. (Withdrawn)
- 1 26. (Withdrawn)

1 27. (Withdrawn)

1 28. (Currently Amended) The composition of any one of claims 1 [to 27], 3-8, or 12-16,  
2 wherein said cells demonstrate an extension of cellular life span and resistance to  
3 apoptosis comparable to young primary human dermal microvascular endothelial  
4 cells.

1 29. (Original) The composition of claim 28, wherein said cells demonstrate said  
2 extended cellular life span and resistance to apoptosis *in vivo* using a SCID-Human Chimeric  
3 Microvascular Remodeling Assay System.

1 30. (Currently Amended) A composition of endothelial cells comprising immortal  
2 human microvascular endothelial cells, wherein said cells each stably express enhanced  
3 green fluorescent protein (eGFP) and comprise a recombinant expression cassette encoding  
4 human telomerase, wherein said cells (a) have a normal karyotype, (b) are resistant to  
5 apoptosis relative to primary microvascular endothelial cells, and (c) are not transformed.

1 31. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a composition of endothelial cells  
2 comprising immortal human microvascular endothelial cells, wherein said cells each  
3 comprise a recombinant expression cassette encoding human telomerase, wherein said cells  
4 (a) have a normal karyotype, (b) are resistant to apoptosis relative to primary microvascular  
5 endothelial cells, and (c) are not transformed, comprising introducing said recombinant  
6 expression cassette encoding telomerase into human dermal microvascular endothelial cells  
7 and expressing said telomerase.

1 32. (Original) A composition produced by the method of claim 31, wherein said  
2 microvascular cells form neovasculature, and wherein host blood is transmitted through said  
3 neovasculature.

1 33. (Withdrawn)

1 34. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising immortal human microvascular  
2 cells, wherein said cells form neovasculature, and wherein host blood is transmitted through  
3 said neovasculature.

1 35. (Withdrawn)

1 36. (Original) The composition of claim 34, wherein said cells comprise a genetic  
2 marker, wherein said marker is expressible in said cells; and wherein said marker is  
3 introduced into said cells through a molecule of recombinant DNA.

1 37. (Withdrawn)

1 38. (Withdrawn)

1 39. (Withdrawn)

1 40. (Withdrawn)

1 41. (Withdrawn)

1 42. (Withdrawn)

1 43. (Withdrawn)

1 44. (Withdrawn)

1 45. (Withdrawn)

1 46. (Withdrawn)

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